



ARIZONA CROP NEWS RELEASE

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ARIZONA CITRUS AND SPRING POTATO PRODUCTION

The April 1 citrus forecast of the 2004-05 crop by the Arizona Agricultural Statistics office shows mostly decreased expectations of utilization when compared to the previous season. Arizona's lemon forecast, at 2.40 million boxes, is unchanged from the previous forecast but down 20 percent from the previous season. Arizona's all orange utilization is forecast at 430,000 boxes, the same as the previous forecast but a decrease of 9 percent from the 2003-04 season. The Arizona tangerine forecast of 400,000 boxes is down 50,000 boxes from the previous forecast but 42 percent below last season. Arizona's grapefruit forecast is decreased 20,000 boxes from January but is 14 percent more than last season's final utilization.

The U.S. all orange April 1 forecast for the 2004-05 season is 9.19 million tons, down 2 percent from the March 1 forecast and 29 percent below last season's final utilization.

Arizona's Spring potato production is forecast at 1.12 million cwt, down 37 percent from last year. Growers report a 35 percent decrease in acreage for harvest and expect a 5 cwt per acre yield decrease over last year.

California's all orange forecast, at 61.0 million boxes, is down 5 percent from the January forecast but 17 percent above the previous season. Harvesting of navel oranges was active throughout March, although at a slow pace due to continued rainfall. Despite the heavy precipitation, good fruit quality is reported. Harvesting of the Valencia crop is well underway with no major problems reported. However, bearing acreage reductions continue in both the Central Valley and southern areas. Fruit quality is good in both districts. Most of the Central Valley Valencia crop is being packed for export.

FOR MORE INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT

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